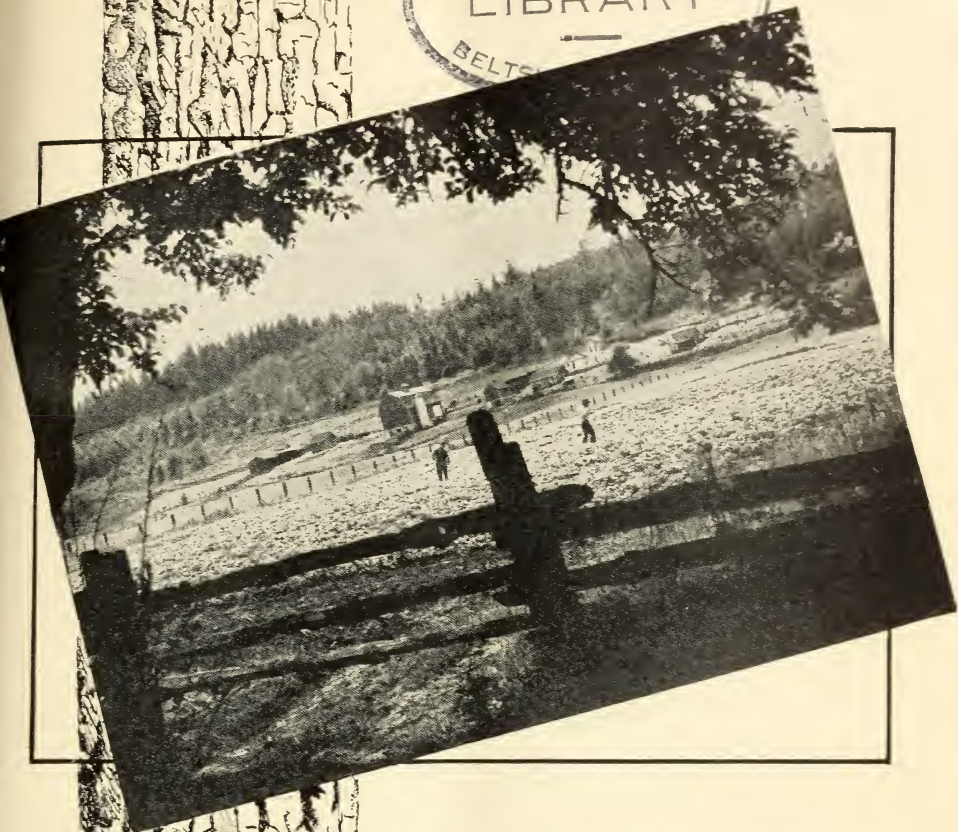


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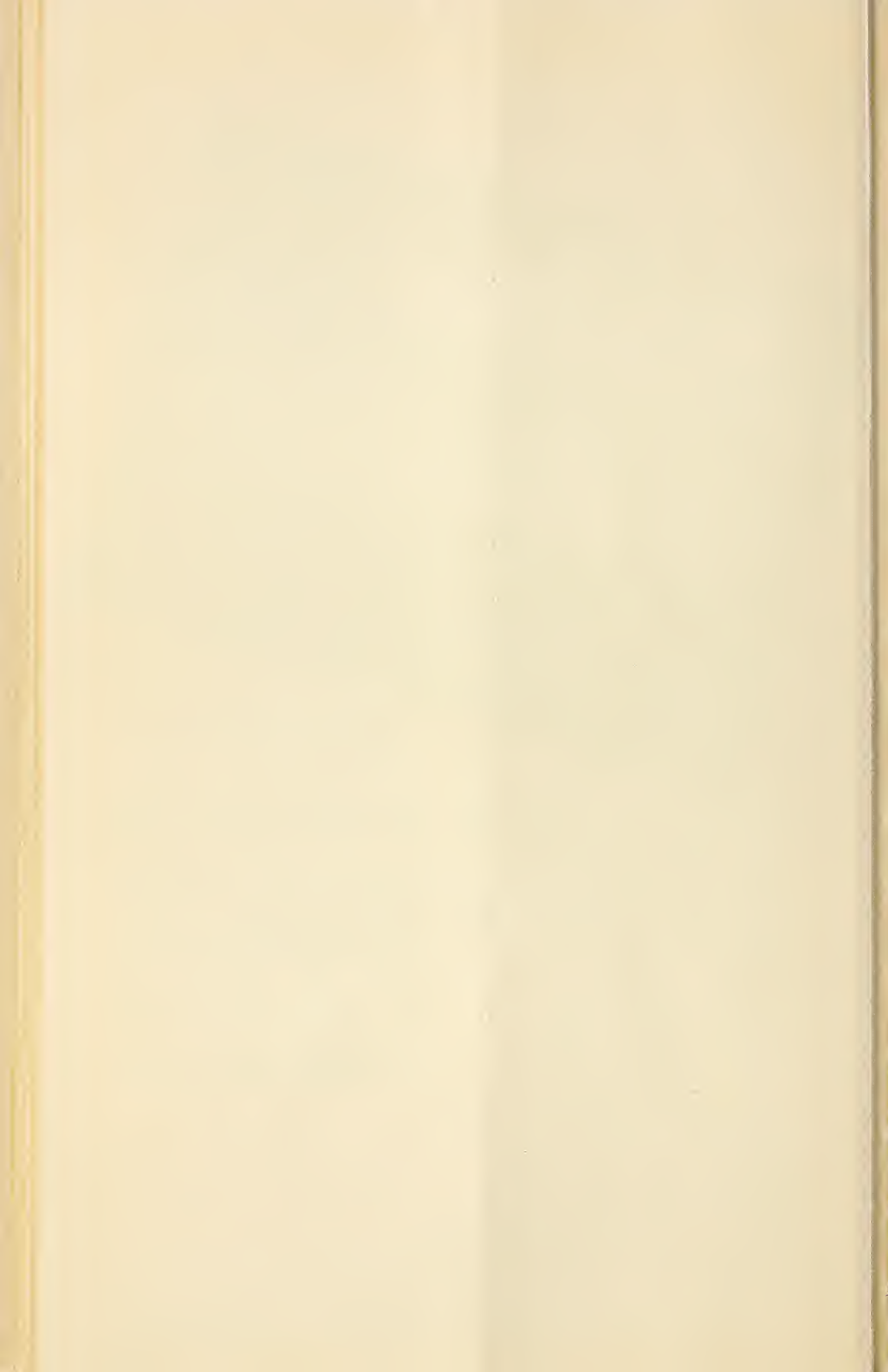
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**INTENSIVE PROJECTS
UNDER THE
COOPERATIVE
FARM
FORESTRY ACT**

**LEAFLET No. 208 U. S. DEPARTMENT
OF AGRICULTURE**



INTENSIVE PROJECTS UNDER THE COOPERATIVE FARM FORESTRY ACT

By FORESTRY DIVISION, *Soil Conservation Service*

The purpose of the Cooperative Farm Forestry Act of May 18, 1937, is to show farmers how they can make the farm woodland more productive so that it will contribute a greater share

WHAT IS THE COOPERATIVE FARM FORESTRY PROGRAM?

of income to the farm enterprise and at the same time conserve soil and water resources. The term "farm woodland" includes not only native woods, but reforested areas and erosion-

control and wildlife plantings, and the word "productive" should be interpreted to include the protection of the land and the enhancement of living as well as the production of wood and tree products.

To attain this objective, the Department of Agriculture is undertaking a broad research, educational, and farm-operations program, leading to replanting and to better management of existing stands of farm woods. Of primary importance in solving the farm forestry problem will be the planning and development of intensive projects to demonstrate the effect of woodland management on farm economy and land use. These projects will, at the same time, provide a proving ground for farm forestry methods.

Better farm-woodland management has long been recognized as a problem deserving attention. The Department of Agriculture, through the Forest Service and the Extension Service, has for years given financial assistance to States in tree planting on farms and for farm forestry extension education.

WHY IS THERE A FARM FORESTRY PROGRAM?

Altogether there are 185 million acres of farm woodlands in the United States. It is estimated that 5 million of the 7 million farms in this country have a piece of woodland. This is an average of 37 acres of farm woodland on each of those farms.

The income derived from the farm woods is a further indication of their importance. They bring in, according to the 1930 census, over 240 million dollars each year to the farmers of this country. As a source of income they rank ninth in a list of 50 crops. To some farmers, the woodland is a major source of income; to many more it is a backlog, a "savings bank," of reserve income.

The Cooperative Farm Forestry Act, with the appropriation made by Congress for the fiscal year 1939-40, has enabled the Department to attack the problem in a new way. The Secretary of Agriculture has appointed a coordinating committee to outline the policies and steps to be taken. This committee has asked the 48 States to prepare State farm forestry programs on the basis of which the Department would undertake a cooperative program.

The greatest effort will go into the intensive *farm forestry* projects, under the administration of the Soil Conservation Service. Farmers in the farm forestry projects will be interested primarily in the production of other agricultural crops, with the woodland forming an integral, but secondary, part of the farm enterprise.

This will be in contradistinction to the intensive *forest farming* projects which are being developed in many States under the administration of the Forest Service. In these projects, where the forest is the principal source of income, establishment and protection of trees and the production and marketing of tree products, and related forestry measures, are being demonstrated as a better use of certain land.

Both types of projects are developed cooperatively by the Soil Conservation Service, the Forest Service, and the Extension Service. Wherever the States are able to finance 50 percent or more of the cost of projects, a State agency, usually the State forester, assumes responsibility for the technical forestry phases, including the plan of woodland management, and the Department responsibility becomes that of coordination. In most States, the projects will be guided by the State committees acting as boards of directors to consider the work plans and local policy. The educational program will be under the State extension services.

The best possible land use for every acre of every field, pasture, and wood lot of every farm is the underlying principle that motivates the soil conservation program. The application of this principle to farm forestry projects compels the preparation of individual farm plans in which each acre is treated according to its capability. This may require the adoption of such established conservation practices as strip cropping, contour planting, improved tillage, crop rotation, cover crops, and manuring, improved pasture and range management, gully control, development of wildlife habitats, and the planting of sub-marginal, hilly or eroded areas to trees.

In the development of the Soil Conservation Service program, more than 440 million trees and shrubs have been planted as an erosion-control measure. But tree planting is not the primary aim of the farm forestry program. The program is designed to make the woodland play a more productive part in the farm economy.

Because of the limited funds available and the fact that the projects are to be intensive, the first step, the selection of cooperators, is of primary importance.

Farms will be selected, within a definite project boundary, from the standpoint of demonstrating the value of farm forestry as a part of the business of farming. Farms selected will be representative of that part of the State which the project area represents and also of all classes of farms which make up the project area. They will be farms in which farm-woodland management will influence farm economy to a marked degree.

Farmers, who become demonstrators in these projects, will be guided in their farm operations by foresters and other agricultural experts. The projects will be set up with the idea of enabling one forester to serve as consultant to as many farmers, within a limited area, as are willing to cooperate in the program of developing their farms and farm woodlands.

Foresters will go into the woodlands with the farmers and help them to work out long-time plans of protection and management. If the woodland management is to be effective, fences will need to be erected to keep out browsing, trampling livestock. Firebreaks and trails may be needed to guard against the danger of uncontrolled flames. Thinning of dense young stands will be recommended. Dead and inferior trees will be removed (fig. 1), and open areas spot-planted to build up gradually a well-spaced and healthy stand. The most suitable kinds of trees will be selected for new plantings.

In addition to timber stand improvement work, the program on each individual farm will include a careful schedule of cutting. The farmer will know in advance just which trees to harvest in any year and which ones to leave as growing stock. By observing well-established forestry principles, he will be able to draw out annual "interest" in the form of a crop of timber and still maintain his "principal" intact. Everything possible will be done to keep young, vigorous trees coming along all the time—to preserve the woods as a reliable asset with high productive value.

Complete farm plans will be advocated for each of the farms selected, and cooperators will be advised to adopt them. In accordance with the principles agreed upon, first priority must be in the supplying of technical assistance to cooperators who accept a plan to include woods, fields, and pastures, because only in that way can the relationship between the management of woodlands and farm economy be shown. This is the essential objective of the projects. The plans will provide for the intensive development of the woodland and the similar development of fields and pastures necessary to insure the permanence of the farm enterprise. In assisting the farmer to draw plans for his farm, his previous experience will be given full weight.

Each farmer-cooperator on an intensive project will be asked to keep simple but complete records of what he does to, and with, his woods—what he puts in and what he takes out. With the help of the forester, he will take an inventory of his woodland resources, and from time to time a reinventory will be made. These records, together with records of the other crops, will show the effect that woodland management has on farm income and increased capital assets. Continued over a 20-year period, the records should constitute a strong argument to convince farmers of the value of tending the woodland as other farm crops are tended.



FIGURE 1.—In this woods, trees marked by the farmer and the forester have been removed through improvement cutting. Some wood for fuel was obtained, and these very thrifty well-placed trees will now make rapid diameter growth.

To the individual farmer taking part in the program, farm forestry should bring direct and tangible benefits. In addition to better protection for the soil, it should mean a more valuable supply of timber for home use or for sale. Today, with the demand for many wood products constantly expanding, with synthetic fibers assuming a growing degree of importance in our national economy, the prospect of financial return for work on the woodlands is perhaps better than ever before. Few fortunes are to be made from farm forests, but, if well-managed, they can provide a substantial source

**WHO WILL
BENEFIT FROM
THE FARM FOR-
ESTRY PROGRAM?**

of supplementary income. And, in times of crop failure, a productive woodland may provide the cash needed to tide the family over. In any event, a well-managed woodland will always contribute toward the greater stability of farm life.

Trees have played an important part in the erosion-control program from the very beginning. They have helped to tie down steep, eroding hillsides that, after years of continuous cultivation, were no longer able to produce crops. They have furnished a sheltering cover for worn-out pastures that were almost devoid of forage and were streaked with the gashes of heavy rains. They have served to check the growth of large gullies, to stabilize unsteady stream banks, and to screen off cultivated fields from dangerous winds.

Trees will always be an important factor in land use adjustment, a powerful instrument of defense against erosion, floods, and silting, and a means of increasing the income from farm lands. It is the aim and purpose of the Department of Agriculture, through its administration of the Cooperative Farm Forestry Act, to demonstrate to farmers that time and money spent on the farm woods will bring a profitable return—that trees pay.

The Cooperative Farm Forestry Act

[Public—No. 95—75th Congress]

[Chapter 226—1st Session]

[H. R. 4728]

AN ACT

To authorize cooperation in the development of farm forestry in the States and Territories, and for other purposes.

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress Assembled, That in order to aid agriculture, increase farm-forest income, conserve water resources, increase employment, and in other ways advance the general welfare and improve living conditions on farms through reforestation and afforestation in the various States and Territories, the Secretary of Agriculture is authorized in cooperation with the land-grant colleges and universities and State forestry agencies, each within its respective field of activities, according to the statutes, if any, of the respective States, wherever such agencies can and will cooperate, or in default of such cooperation to act directly, to produce or procure and distribute forest trees and shrub planting stock; to make necessary investigations; to advise farmers regarding the establishment, protection, and management of farm forests and forest and shrub plantations and the harvesting, utilization, and marketing of the products thereof; and to enter into cooperative agreements for the establishment, protection, and care of farm- or other forest-land tree and shrub plantings within such States and Territories; and, whenever suitable Government-owned lands are not available, to lease, purchase, or accept donations of land and develop nursery sites for the production of such forest planting stock as is needed to effectuate the purposes of this Act, but not including ornamental or other stock for landscape plantings commonly grown by established

commercial nurserymen, and no stock grown in Government and cooperating nurseries shall be allowed to enter regular trade channels. No cooperative reforestation or afforestation shall be undertaken pursuant to this Act unless the cooperator makes available without charge the land to be planted. There is hereby authorized to be appropriated annually not to exceed \$2,500,000 for carrying out the purposes of this Act. This Act shall be known as the Cooperative Farm Forestry Act.

Approved, May 18, 1937.

